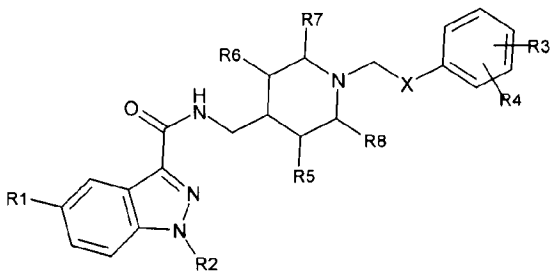
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide of formula I:



(I)

wherein

X is an NHC(O) or C(O)NH group,

R1 is a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an aminocarbonyl, acetylamino, sulphonylmethyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy group,

R2 is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group or an aryl(C_{1-3})alkyl group in which the abovementioned groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy,

R3 and R4, which may be identical or different, are a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an amino, nitro, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, di(C_{1-3})alkylamino, acetylamino or O-(C_{1-3})alkylphenyl group, or R3 and R4, together, form a 5- to 7-membered ring in which one or two of the said members may be a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O,

R5, R6, R7 and R8, which may be identical or different, are H or methyl;

and acid-addition salts thereof with pharmaceutically acceptable organic and mineral acids.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein R1 is H, methyl or methoxy.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein R2 is H, methyl or isopropyl.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein R3 is H, methyl, hydroxyl, amino or dimethylamino.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein R4 is H, methyl or hydroxyl.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein R5, R6, R7 and R8 are H.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An indazolamide according to Claim 1, wherein it is a salt of addition of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, methanesulphonic acid, para-toluenesulphonic acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid and sulphuric acid.

Claim 8 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A hydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 8.

Claim 10 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A tosylate salt of the compound of Claim 10.

Claim 12 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-benzyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A hydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 12.

Claim 14 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-((4-((phenylmethyl)oxy)phenyl)amino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 15 (Original): N3-((1-(2-((4-Hydroxyphenyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A hydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 15.

Claim 17 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-((4-nitrophenyl)amino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 18 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-((4-aminophenyl)amino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A dihydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 18.

Claim 20 (Original): 5-Methyl-N3-((1-(2-oxo-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A hydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 20.

Claim 22 (Original): 5-Methyl-N3-((1-(2-oxo-2-(phenylamino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A hydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 22.

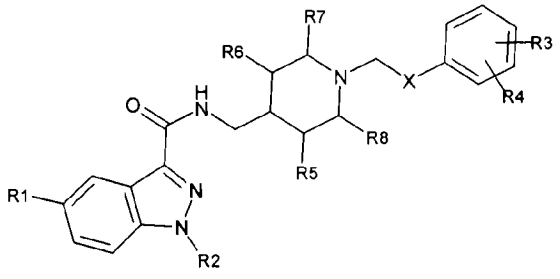
Claim 24 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-((4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)amino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A dihydrochloride salt of the compound of Claim 24.

Claim 26 (Original): N3-((1-(2-Oxo-2-((2,6-dimethylphenyl)amino)ethyl)-4-piperidyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An oxalate salt of the compound of Claim 26.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing an indazolamide of formula I:



(I)

wherein

X is an NHC(O) or C(O)NH group,

R1 is a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an aminocarbonyl, acetylamino, sulphonylmethyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy group,

R2 is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group or an aryl(C_{1-3})alkyl group in which the abovementioned groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy,

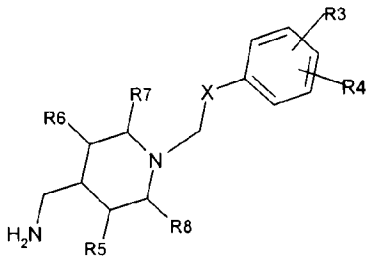
R3 and R4, which may be identical or different, are a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an amino, nitro, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, di(C_{1-3})alkylamino, acetylamino or O-(C_{1-3})alkylphenyl group, or R3 and R4, together, form a 5- to 7-membered ring in which one or two of the said members may be a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O,

R5, R6, R7 and R8, which may be identical or different, are H or methyl;

and acid-addition salts thereof with pharmaceutically acceptable organic and mineral acids,

wherein it comprises the following stages:

a) condensing an amine of formula (II)

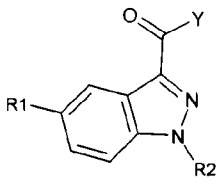


(II)

in which

X, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7 and R8 have the meanings given above,

with an indazolecarboxylic acid derivative of formula (IIIa)



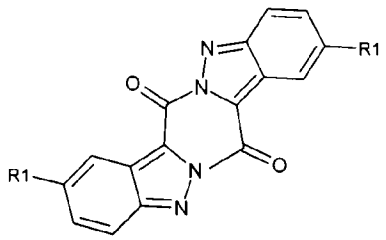
(IIIa)

in which

R1 and R2 have the meanings given above, and

Y is a chlorine or bromine atom, or a group OR or OC(O)R, in which R is an alkyl with a linear or branched chain comprising from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or of formula (IIIb)



(IIIb)

in which

R1 has the meanings given above,

to give the indazolamide of formula (I), and

b) optionally, forming an acid-addition salt of the indazolamide of formula (I) with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or mineral acid.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 28, wherein stage (a) is performed by reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (IIIa) in which Y is chlorine or with a compound of formula (IIIb) in the presence of a suitable diluent at a temperature in the range between 0 and 140°C for a time of between 0.5 and 20 hours.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the reaction temperature is in the range between 15 and 40°C.

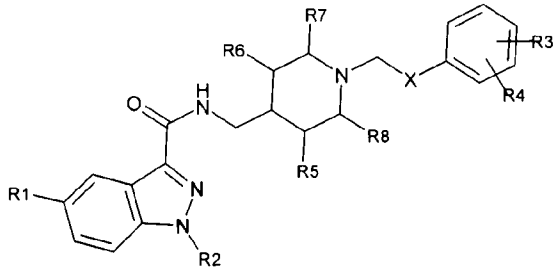
Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the reaction time ranges from 1 to 14 hours.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein the diluent is aprotic.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 32, wherein the diluent is an aprotic apolar diluent.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 9, wherein when Y is chlorine or bromine, the abovementioned stage a) is performed in the presence of an organic or mineral acid acceptor.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition containing an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

X is an NHC(O) or C(O)NH group,

R1 is a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an aminocarbonyl, acetylamino, sulphonylmethyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-3} alkoxy group,

R2 is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group or an aryl(C_{1-3})alkyl group in which the abovementioned groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy,

R3 and R4, which may be identical or different, are a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an amino, nitro, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, di(C_{1-3})alkylamino, acetylamino or O-(C_{1-3})alkylphenyl group, or R3 and R4, together, form a 5- to 7-membered ring in which one or two of the said members may be a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O,

R5, R6, R7 and R8, which may be identical or different, are H or methyl;

or of an acid-addition salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, and

at least one pharmaceutically acceptable inert ingredient.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): An intermediate of formula (II)

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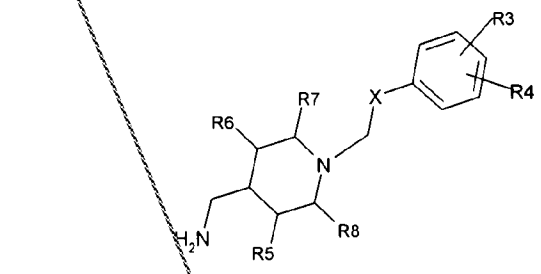


(II)

wherein

X is an NHC(O) or C(O)NH group,

R3 and R4, which may be identical or different, are a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an amino, nitro, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, di(C_{1-3})alkylamino, acetylamino or O-(C_{1-3})alkylphenyl group, or R3 and R4, together, form a 5- to 7-membered

ring in which one or two of the said members may be a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O,

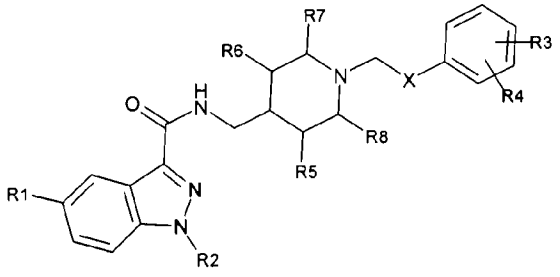
R5, R6, R7 and R8, which may be identical or different, are H or methyl.

/CC/ Claim 37 (Withdrawn): An intermediate according to Claim 36, wherein R3 is H, methyl, hydroxyl, benzyloxy, nitro, amino or dimethylamino.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): An intermediate according to Claim 36, wherein R4 is H or methyl.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): An intermediate according to Claim 36, wherein R5, R6, R7 and R8 are H.

Claim 40 (New): A method of treating chronic pain in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject an indazolamide of formula I:



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R2 is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group or an aryl(C_{1-3})alkyl group in which the abovementioned groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy,

R3 and R4, which may be identical or different, are a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an amino, nitro, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, di(C_{1-3})alkylamino, acetylamino or O-(C_{1-3})alkylphenyl group, or R3 and R4, together, form a 5- to 7-membered ring in which one or two of the said members may be a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, S and O,

R5, R6, R7 and R8, which may be identical or different, are H or methyl;

and acid-addition salts thereof with pharmaceutically acceptable organic and mineral acids.

Claim 41 (New): The method according to Claim 40, wherein said chronic pain is a disorder selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, oncology pain, and neuropathic pain.